

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0011

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LI, US

SUBJ: REDUCTION IN MAAG (U.S. MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA)

REF: (A) STATE 093431 (B) MONROVIA 2529, (C) MONROVIA 2058

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S EXPLANATION OF STATUS OF U.S. MILITARY MISSION IN RELATION TO POSSIBLE WORLD-WIDE MAAG REDUCTION. DEPARTMENT SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IN EFFECT ACTION HAS RLREADY BEEN TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE REDUCTION OF USMM. THAT IS, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO IMLEMNT MAAG REDUCTION WHEN AND IF ENACTED, HOLDS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON ALL REPLACEMENT PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHILE DEPARTURES CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. RESULT WILL BE THAT BY MID-SUMMER USMM WILL BE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DEGREE NECESSARY. IF USMM STRENGTH IS TO BE PRESERVED, DECISION TO SUSPEND REPLACEMENT ACTIONS MUST BE VACATED SOONEST. OF FIVE DEPARTURES SCHEDULED BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 30 REPLACEMENT ACTION IS PROCEEDING ON ONLY ONE. AS FOUR-WEEK SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHOOL IS DESIRED PREREQUISITE TO ASSIGNMENT, IMMEDIATE ACTION IS CRITICAL. BELIEVE THIS CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH STATE-DOD CONSULTATIONS NOW.

2. THREE-MAN DEFENSE LIAISON TEAM COULD HELP MANAGE FOREIGN MILITARY SALE SS AND SMALL GRANT AID TRAINING PROGRAM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS. BUT SUCH A TEAM WOULD BE FULLY COMMITTED IN THIS ROLE. TEAM WOULD NOT BE ABLE AT THE SAME TIME TO CARRY ON ADVISORY FUNCTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FULFILLMENT OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA BY 1981 (SEE MONROVIA 2058, PARTICULARLY PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 7). AS

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ANOTHER CONSIDERATION USMM HAS BEEN WORKING TO DEVELOP SELF-

SUFFICIENCY AND TO ENCOURAGE AFL TO ASSUME ALL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN BUDGETING FOR, SELECTING, PROCURING, AND ACCOUNTING FOR EQUIPMENT ITEMS. PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MECHANISMS, ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW INCREASED AFL LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AT A SATISFACTORY PACE. NEVERTHELESS, LITTLE POSSIBILITY FOR SIGNIFICANT ACCELERATION OF THIS PROCESS IS FORESEEN. IF USMM WERE ABRUPTLY CONVERTED TO THREEE-MAN LIAISON TEAM, IT IS LIKELY THAT FMS PROGRAM IN LIBERIA COULD CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED SATISFACTORILY DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. ON OTHER HAND, THIS WOULD MAKE UNACCOMPLISHABLE OUR CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADVISING ON FULFILLMENT OF AFL'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 1981. CARTER

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